

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 SCA-01 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05

FDRE-00 DPW-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSO-00

EA-06 /089 W

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P 232000Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9054

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

GOV GUAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 0 8 7 6

FOR AF ASST. SECRETARY DAVIS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, SREF, UNHCR, VS, TO

SUBJECT: TOGOLESE PRESIDENT OFFERS ASYLUM TO SOUTH VIETNAMESE
DOCTOR'S FAMILY OF SIXTY

REF: A. STATE 92867 B. STATE 92890

1. THIS MORNING I RECEIVED REQUEST FROM NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR
ROUDIE FOR USG ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH VIETNAMESE DR. DUONG-QUANG
DUC (FRENCH NATIONAL) IN OBTAINING SOUTH VIETNAMESE PASSPORTS
AND EXIT PERMITS AND, IF NECESSARY, IN FACILITATING EVACUATION
FROM VIETNAM TO TOGO OF SIXTY MEMBERS OF HIS IMMEDIATE FAMILY.
DR. DUONG IS MEMBER OF FRENCH AID MISSION HERE ASSIGNED AS CHIEF
PHYSICIAN AT LAMA KARA HOSPITAL. HAVING MINISTERED TO PRE-
SIDENT EYADEMA AND SEVERAL CABINET MINISTERS AFTER PRESIDENT'S
PLANE CRASH AT SARAKAWA LAST YEAR, DR. DUONG NOW ALSO SERVES
AS PRIVATE PHYSICIAN TO PRESIDENT EYADEMA AND HIS FAMILY;
EYADEMA PERSONALLY DIRECTED MININTERIOR EKLO TO AUTHORIZE
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ENTRY OF ALL SIXTY RELATIVES INTO TOGO AS REFUGEES. MIN-

ISTER EKLO HAS ALREADY SIGNED OFFICIAL AUTHORIZATION FOR THEIR ENTRY AND RESIDENCE.

2. EMBASSY ADVISED DR. DUONG TO ASK GOT TO APPROACH UNHCR, AS WELL AS LOCAL ICRC REPRESENTATIVE AND UNDP RESREP, FOR HELP (REF B), BUT WISHES ALERT DEPARTMENT TO PRESIDENT EYADEMA'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN SAVING THIS LARGE FAMILY. ADULT MEMBERS INCLUDE THREE DOCTORS WHO HAVE BEEN ASSURED POSITIONS IN TOGO, THREE PROFESSORS AND MEMBERS OF OTHER PROFESSIONS. FORTY OF GROUP ARE CHILDREN. DESPITE EYADEMA'S PRO-SIHANOUK AND PRO-NORTH KOREAN STANCE, AND EVEN HIS RECENT DECISION ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH HANOI, EYADEMA HAS YET TO RECOGNIZE PRG AND STILL EVIDENTLY FAVORS RVN AND NOT RPT NOT VIET CONG, AGAINST WHOM HE PERSONALLY FOUGHT.

3. DOCTOR ASSURES EMBASSY PROBLEM NOW IS SOLELY ONE OF PRESSING SAIGON GOVERNMENT TO GRANT FAMILY TRAVEL DOCUMENTS. HE IS CONFIDENT HE AND FAMILY TOGETHER CAN PAY TRANSPORTATION COSTS. WE HAVE STRESSED TO HIM, HOWEVER, SERIOUS LOGISTICAL JAM EXISTING IN SAIGON WHICH MIGHT PRECLUDE FAMILY'S OBTAINING ANY TRANSPORTATION AT ALL. MOREOVER, AS WE ALSO HAVE EMPHASIZED, USG PERSONNEL AND FACILITIES IN SAIGON ARE STRETCHED BEYOND IMAGINATION.

4. WE ARE MOTIVATED NOT ONLY BY HUMANITARIAN CONCERN FOR THIS FAMILY BUT ALSO BY DESIRE TO ASSIST PRESIDENT EYADEMA IN THIS UNUSUAL AND COMPASSIONATE GESTURE. WE APPRECIATE ENORMITY OF VIETNAM REFUGEE PROBLEM, BUT HOPE NEVERTHELESS DEPARTMENT WILL SHARE OUR SENSE OF POTENTIAL POLITICAL VALUE AND REQUEST EMBASSY SAIGON TO APPROACH SOUTH VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES ON DR. DUONG'S BEHALF.

5. EMBASSY READY TO TRANSMIT NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF FAMILY TO DEPARTMENT WHEN NEEDED. ENTIRE FAMILY IN SAIGON.

6. FOR ABIDJAN: PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH RVN AMBASSADOR TO IVORY COAST, WHO IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR TOGO, AT YOUR DISCRETION.
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